

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126802

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUB: NEXT MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND TURKEY

REFS: (A) STATE 106131, 260128Z APR 78
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(B) USNATO 4401, 291344Z APR 78

1. AS REGARDS THE AGENDA AND TIMING OF THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AND
TURKEY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE AGENDA SHOULD BE LIMITED TO
THE PORTUGUESE QUESTION AND SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR LATE
JUNE.

2. AGENDA. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DISCUSS NATO'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF F-104'S, UNTIL WE HAVE A CLEARER INDICATION OF THE RESULTS OF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO TO TURKEY. DISCUSSION OF THE PORTUGUESE QUESTION SHOULD, WE BELIEVE, FOCUS ON THE CURRENT LIST OF BRIGADE ITEMS, THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE'S ABILITY TO PROVIDE AIR TRANSPORT AND TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT FOR THE BRIGADE, AND MUMFORD'S PROPOSAL FOR A COMMON FUND FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NATO MEMBERS IN NEED. WE TAKE IT THAT MUMFORD AGREES WITH US THAT NAVAL ISSUES ARE BEST TAKEN UP AFTER THE NEXT MEETING.

3. TIMING. WE CANNOT COMPLETE OUR PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT MEETING PRIOR TO THE NATO SUMMIT. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALLOW AMPLE TIME TO DO THE HOMEWORK NECESSARY FOR A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION AND TO UNDERTAKE THE CORRIDOR WORK REQUIRED TO TRY TO INVOLVE OUR ALLIES OTHER THAN THE FRG MORE SERIOUSLY IN THIS PROGRAM.

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